

Message Text

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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AMCONSUL MUNICH
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USMISSIONUSBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
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SUMMARY: MARATHON BARGAINING OVER THE WEEKEND IN
WHICH KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED RESULTED
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IN AGREEMENT AND AN END TO THE NATION-WIDE LOCKOUT OF
NEWSPAPER PLANTS. HHE UNION RECEIVED LIMITED JOB
SECURITY AND RETRAINING BENEFITS FOR ITS TYPESETTERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 20, TERMS OF
AN AGREEMENT WERE ANNOUNCED THAT ENDED THE WEEK LONG

STRIKE AND LOCKOUT IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY. THE NEW AGREEMENT WAS HAILED BY ONE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE AS GOOD "FOR HALF A CENTURY." FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PRESIDENT STINGL AND MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI WERE BOTH INVOLVED DURING THE LAST CRUCIAL SESSIONS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ENDED SUNDAY NIGHT.

2. THE PRINCIPAL TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE:

A) FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS TYPESETTERS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE TO OPERATE THE ELECTRONIC KEY-BOARD SCREENS TO SET COLD TYPE AND BE GUARANTEED THE TYPESETTER WAGE RATE.

B) TYPESETTERS WHO ARE DISPLACED BY THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL BE RETRAINED FOR OTHER JOBS IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY AND FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PAID THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE WAGE RATE OF THE NEW JOB AND THE TYPESETTER RATE.

C) JOURNALISTS USING THE SCREENS WILL BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO REGULARLY USE TYPEWRITERS IN THEIR WORK.

D) RELOCATION ALLOWANCES WILL BE PAID BY EMPLOYERS
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TO WORKERS WILLING TO ACCEPT POSITIONS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE FRG INCLUDING WEST BERLIN. THE ALLOWANCE WILL INCLUDE A LUMP SUM PAYMENT EQUAL TO 150 PERCENT OF MOVING COSTS AND THE DIFFERENCE, IF GREATER, BETWEEN THE OLD WAGE/SALARY AND THE NEW WAGE/SALARY FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

3. THE UNION SETTLED FOR LESS THAN IT ORIGINALLY DEMANDED. IN ADDITION TO WANTING TO FREEZE OUT JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS FROM THE KEYBOARD SCREENS AND RESERVE THE JOBS EXCLUSIVELY FOR TYPESETTERS, THE UNION HAD DEMANDED A 35 HOUR WORK WEEK. PRINTING UNION PRESIDENT MAHLEIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT LESS AND BLAMED THE EMPLOYERS FOR OVERREACTING TO THE UNION'S SELECTIVE STRIKES BY IMPOSING A NATION-WIDE LOCKOUT.

4. MEDIATOR JOSEF STINGL, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, CLAIMED THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOWED "IT IS POSSIBLE NOT TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON PROGRESS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED." NEWSPAPERS BEGAN TO APPEAR ALL

OVER THE FRG ON MARCH 21.
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